Conference on piracy in entertainment industry

3336. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether in a recent conference of entertainment industry which was attended by him, the industry voiced its serious concern about the piracy which is harming the industry badly;

(b) if so, the other issues voiced by the industry; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to stop piracy and help the entertainment industry come out of the crisis?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) According to information received from Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), in the recent conference of the entertainment industry FRAMES (4-6 April, 2005), the industry voiced serious concern regarding piracy, and discussed issues like promotion of Indian Entertainment and Media sector globally, exploring co production opportunities etc.

(c) The Copyright Act, 1957, contains *inter alia,* the legal provisions regarding copyright in cinematograph films and music. The responsibility for dealing with offences under the Copyright Act rests with the police authorities of the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations. Copyright Enforcement Cells have been set up in most States/UT Administrations headed by a senior police officer to deal with such offences.

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has taken the following steps to fight piracy in the film sector:

- This Ministry has a Plan Scheme to undertake activities relating to anti piracy measures.
- The Ministry has initiated action to formulate appropriate training modules for police officers to train them for anti-piracy.
- Recognizing that high levels of entertainment tax lead to piracy, the Committee for Development of the Entertainment Sector, a sub Committee of the State Information Ministers' Conference (SIMCON), recommended that the rate of entertainment tax be lowered to a ceiling of 45%. In the recent SIMCON it was felt that the ceiling shuold be further lowered to 25-30%.

- The Committee also recommended appointment of senior police officers in States to work in co-ordination with the entertainment industry, as nodal officers.

- During the Budget of 2003-04, audio CDs were exempted from excise duty to do away with the price advantage available to pirated CDs.

- The Public Service Broadcasting Trust has been entrusted with the task of making a film on piracy.

- The Cable Television Networks Regulation Act has been amended in 2000, to prohibit a Cable operator from transmitting or re-transmitting any programme or channel for which the Copyright holder has not granted him a license.

- This Ministry has requested Chief Secretaries of all States to advise District Magistrates and Superintendents of Police to include anti-piracy measures in their monthly activity reports.

- This Ministry is consulting FICCI to draft an optical disc law.

Telecast of Lok Sabha/Rajya Sabha DD-Channels

3337. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cable operators in R.K. Puram New Delhi are not showing DD-Lok Sabha and DD-Rajya Sabha free-to-air channels despite subscribers demand;

(b) if so, the action proposed to be taken against the cable operators; and

(c) the steps taken to ensure that all cable operators in Delhi should telecast these channels?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.